

HAZUS HOT ZONE

November 2007 Issue

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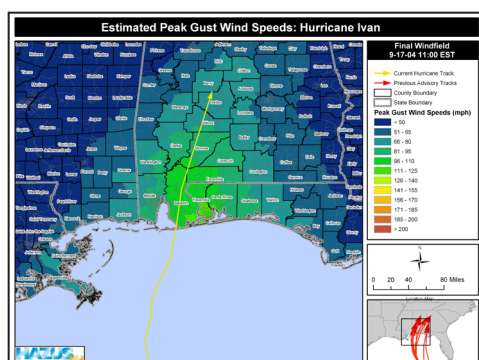
The State of Florida continues to be a national leader in the use of HAZUS-MH® to support risk analysis, mitigation, response, and recovery planning.

At least four factors contribute to Florida's success: 1) the salience or high visibility of hazards and the role of emergency management in the state; 2) consistently strong support from FEMA Region IV and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) for HAZUS-MH; 3) a strong and active technical community of GIS professionals drawn from local government, academia and the private sector; and 4) a very active Florida HAZUS User Group (FLHUG) that provides leadership and direction through a series of committees and a geographic organization that involves seven regions across the state.

The Outreach Committee has led efforts to build a strong constituency of HAZUS-MH users across the state. Members have “taken HAZUS-MH on the road” and demonstrated its use at conferences, meetings and workshops in all regions of the state. In early November 2007, a Web site was launched – <http://flhug.hazus.org/> – that will become an important outreach tool. In addition, a Google Group has been established, which is routinely used by members to post messages, articles, links, announcements, troubleshooting tips and other information that is of interest to HAZUS-MH users.

Since its formation in January 2006, a priority of the FLHUG has been to coordinate the statewide collection and processing of inventory data into HAZUS-MH. The Data Group, under the Technical Committee, brings together key state and local officials to coordinate data needs assessment, data collection and data sharing. Since 2006, the Data Group has made significant progress, guided by four project goals:

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FEMA

3RiversHUG Student Members Provide Disaster Study Support

In March 2006, the 3RiversHUG became the first HAZUS User Group (HUG) to form a student chapter, which has proven to be a win-win situation for all participants. Students gained practical real-world experience, which compliments their classroom work. Meanwhile, the county government participants received improved disaster studies. The 3RiversHUG is comprised of 12 counties in western Pennsylvania. 3RiversHUG student members have worked in several of these counties.

Today the Allegheny County Emergency Services Office has a 3RiversHUG student member working to adjust their current disaster vulnerability model to include increases in population due to tourism. The current vulnerability model is based on census data which cannot account for tourism activities, such as Pittsburgh Steelers games. The student is now researching peak times and locations of business and occupancy that will become

a data layer in the GIS system. The Allegheny County Emergency Services Office will then have the ability to see an increase in need for personnel and resources during peak tourist times. This information will assist with disaster planning as well as disaster response.

Another 3RiversHUG student member is working on the Emergency Response Plan for the Borough of California. The Monongahela River located in this borough floods regularly. The 3RiversHUG student member is using HAZUS to map floodplains, transportation routes, and hazardous materials sites. These maps will contribute to the formation of the Emergency Response Plan. The 3RiversHUG is an excellent example of how HAZUS User Groups function as public-private partnerships that create positive outcomes for all participants.

For more information on the 3RiversHUG visit www.fema.gov.

Training Information

ESRI Speaker Series Podcast Introduces HAZUS-MH Web Course Series

Listen and learn about the upcoming HAZUS-MH Web course series developed by ESRI and Kevin Mickey, Director of Professional Education and Outreach at The Polis Center, Indiana University, Indianapolis and Vincent Brown, Senior Program Specialist in the Mitigation Division at FEMA. In the podcast, the speakers provide an overview of the courses and their objectives as well as the ideal candidates for them and how they will benefit from the training.

With six courses in all to serve varying interests and training needs, the series will help public and private organizations plan for and mitigate natural disasters. Courses include the following:

- HAZUS-MH Overview and Installation
- Introduction to Using HAZUS-MH to Assess Losses from a Riverine Flood Hazard
- HAZUS-MH Flood Model Output and Applications
- Integrating User Supplied Hazard Data into the HAZUS-MH Flood Model
- Introduction to Using HAZUS-MH for Hurricane Loss Estimation
- Introduction to Using HAZUS-MH for Earthquake Loss Estimation

To listen to the podcast, visit www.esri.com/podcasts.



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- To partner with the Florida DEM to provide a level two replacement for Critical Infrastructure data;
- To train GIS professionals across the state in HAZUS-MH and specifically the Comprehensive Data Management for HAZUS-MH;
- To support the development of wind damage assessment tools;
- To coordinate with the Florida DEM in the development of the Critical Facilities Inventory Data Dictionary.

The partnership of FEMA Region IV, Florida DEM and the FLHUG

is involved in other HAZUS-MH initiatives, including:

- Use of HAZUS-MH to support the Catastrophic Hurricane Planning for South Florida;
- Use of HAZUS-MH for Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning; and
- Development of a Web-based HAZUS-MH Portal in cooperation with FEMA Region IV.

For more information on Florida's best practices involving HAZUS-MH, please contact Tom Durham, PBS&J, at TSDurham@pbsj.com.

Advanced HAZUS-MH Training for Flood January 14-17, 2008

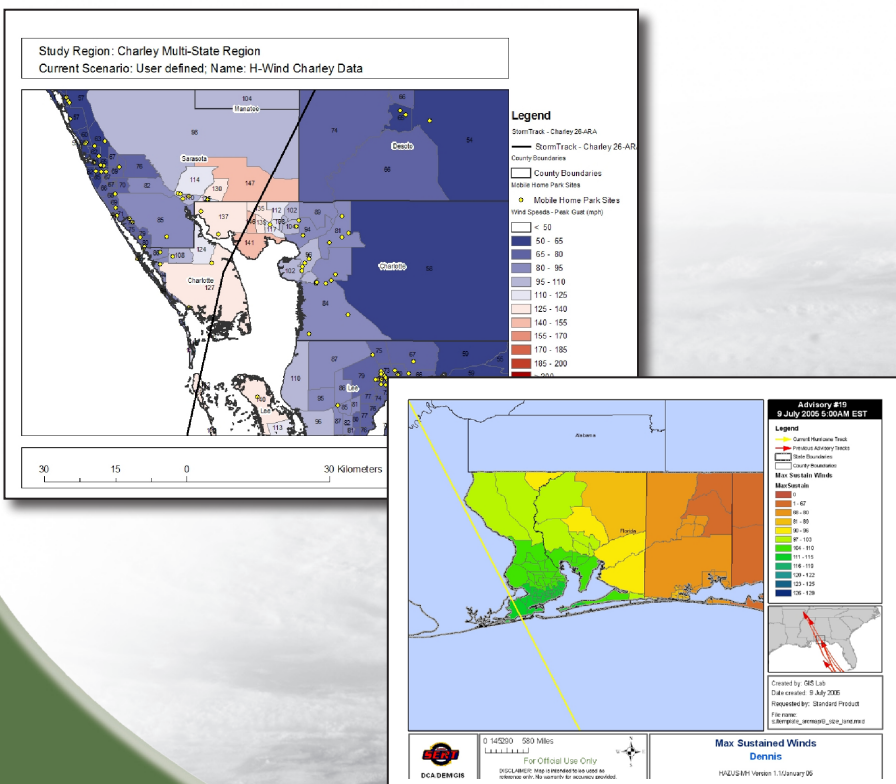
This course is designed to provide in-depth instruction on the use of HAZUS-MH for advanced applications related to flood-loss modeling. The HAZUS-MH Flood Model is capable of assessing riverine and coastal flooding. It estimates potential damages to all classes of buildings, essential facilities, transportation lifelines, utility lifelines, vehicles and agricultural crops. The model addresses building debris generation and shelter requirements. Direct losses are estimated based on physical damage to structures, contents and building interiors. The effects of flood warning are taken into account, as well as flow velocity effects. The Flood Information Tool (FIT) allows users to prepare local flood hazard and other pertinent data for use in HAZUS-MH. Detailed lessons include: Riverine and Coastal Hazard Methodology, FIT, Damage Functions, "What-if" Analysis, and Advanced Spatial Queries.

Selection Criteria:

The audience for this course includes state and local emergency managers and GIS specialists, state and local planners, regional personnel responsible for flood mitigation and response activities, and other federal agencies. A strong working knowledge of ArcGIS and Spatial Analyst is recommended.

Prerequisites:

E313: Basic HAZUS Multi-Hazard



HAZUS Users of the Year

As a way of recognizing those individuals who are dedicated to furthering the success of HAZUS®, FEMA has created the HAZUS User of the Year designation to help show appreciation to those who have contributed to the success of the program. The success of HAZUS is determined by awareness and usage—the more that communities are aware of its capabilities and utilize the program, the more lives can be saved, economic losses are decreased, preparedness increases, and faster response and recovery times are witnessed in impacted communities.

Each quarter, FEMA will spotlight the contributions of a HAZUS user who has provided exceptional services to the expansion of the HAZUS program. This individual may be a user, a developer, a trainer or anyone who has been involved in adding value to HAZUS. For example, you may nominate someone who has recently started using HAZUS for innovative projects, has created or participated in a HAZUS User Group (HUG), or that has prepared or taught a new HAZUS course.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this program. Nominate a co-worker today by completing the nomination form on www.usehazus.com or www.hazus.org.

Congratulations to the 2007 Winners (left) !

Contact Information

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Read about the winners' outstanding work online at www.usehazus.com or www.hazus.org.

1st Quarter 2007

Jamie Mitchem,
California University
of Pennsylvania

2nd Quarter 2007

Jonathan Salomon,
Northeast States
Emergency Consortium

3rd Quarter 2007

Linda Sibert,
Saline County, Kansas

Save the Date

2nd Annual HAZUS User Conference: From Data Collection to Decision Making

August 5-7, 2008

San Diego, California

(Part of the 2008 ESRI International User Conference)

Everyone is invited to join us in sunny San Diego for the 2008 HAZUS User Conference. Keeping in line with last year's successful conference, this year's conference will feature keynote speakers, educational sessions and training opportunities. A fundamental objective of the event is to help individuals and organizations understand how to use HAZUS to build and develop necessary information to take advantage of planning capabilities, map modernization and other related risk analysis activities, as well as tackle the challenges of decision making so that communities can collaborate effectively with one another.

We will be accepting session abstracts for interested speakers as well as nominations for our annual award winners. There will be room to showcase your HAZUS applications in the HAZUS Hallway and we will feature success stories throughout the conference.

More information will be posted on www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus and www.hazus.org in the next few weeks. For more information, please send an email to Beth Miller Howser at bmhowser@pbsj.com with the subject line HAZUS Conference Info.